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**COMPETITIVE COMMUNICATIONS GROUP**

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September 5, 2000

OFFICE OF THE  
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

**VIA UPS NEXT DAY AIR**

Joe Werner, Chief  
Tennessee Regulatory Authority  
460 James Robertson Parkway  
Nashville, TN 37243-0505

RE: In the Matter of application of Premiere Network Services, Inc., for a Certificate to Provide Competing Local Telecommunications Services in the State of Tennessee (Docket No. 00-00632)

Dear Mr. Werner,

Per Darrell Whitis's request enclosed in an original and thirteen (13) copies of Small and Minority-Owned Telecommunications Business Participation Plan in the above matter.

Please note that the above application has already been filed and this was just additional information that was requested by the Commission in order to process the application.

Please date-stamp the enclosed extra copy of this letter and return it in the self-addressed, stamped envelope provided. Should you have any questions concerning this filing, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned at 301-842-1437.

Respectfully submitted,

*Terri K. Firestein* <sup>NEA</sup>  
Terri K. Firestein  
Consultant  
Premiere Network Services, Inc.

Enclosure

**POSTED**  
9-19-00

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OFFICE OF THE  
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

**PREMIERE NETWORK SERVICES, INC.**

**SMALL AND MINORITY-OWNED  
TELECOMMUNICATIONS BUSINESS  
PARTICIPATION PLAN**

Pursuant to T.C.A. 65-5-212, as amended, Premiere Network Services, Inc. ("Premiere") submits this small and minority-owned Telecommunications Business Participation Plan (the "Plan") along with its Application for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity to provide competing intrastate interexchange and local exchange services in Tennessee.

## I. PURPOSE

The purpose of Section 65-5-212 is to provide opportunities for small and minority-owned business to provide goods and services to Telecommunications service providers. Premiere is committed to the goals of Section 65-5-212 and to taking steps to support the participation of small and minority-owned Telecommunications business in the Telecommunications industry. Premiere will endeavor to provide opportunities for small and minority-owned Telecommunications businesses to compete for contracts and subcontracts for goods and services. As part of its procurement process, Premiere will make efforts to identify and inform minority-owned and small businesses that are qualified and capable of providing goods and services to Premiere of such opportunities. Premiere's representatives have already contacted the Department of Economic and Community Development, the administrator of the small and minority-owned Telecommunications assistance program, to obtain a list of qualified vendors. Moreover, Premiere will seek to increase awareness of such opportunities so that companies not otherwise identified will have sufficient information to participate in the procurement process.

## II. DEFINITIONS

As defined in Section 65-5-212:

**Minority-Owned Business.** Minority-owned business shall mean a business which is solely owned, or at least fifty-one percent (51%) of the assets or outstanding stock of which is owned, by an individual who personally manages and controls daily operations of such business, and who is impeded from normal entry into the economic mainstream because of race, religion, sex or national origin and such business has annual gross receipts of less than four million dollars (\$4,000,000.00).

**Small Business.** Small Business shall mean a business with annual gross receipts of less than four million dollars (\$4,000,000.00).

### III. ADMINISTRATION

Premiere's Plan will be overseen and administered by the individual named below, hereinafter referred to as the Administrator, who will be responsible for carrying out and promoting Premiere's full efforts to provide equal opportunities for small and minority businesses. The Administrator of the Plan will be:

Mr. Leo A Wrobel  
President, Founder & CEO  
Premiere Network Services, Inc.  
1510 North Hampton Road, Suite 120  
DeSoto, Texas 75115  
Telephone: (972) 228-8881  
Facsimile: (972) 228-8889

The Administrator's responsibilities will include:

- (1) maintaining an updated Plan in full compliance with Section 65-5-212 and the rules and orders of the Tennessee Regulatory Authority.
- (2) establishing and developing policies and procedures necessary for the successful implementation of the Plan.
- (3) preparing and submitting such forms as may be required by the Tennessee Regulatory Authority, including the filing of required annual updates.
- (4) serving as the primary liaison to and cooperate with the Tennessee Regulatory Authority, other agencies of the State of Tennessee, and small and minority-owned businesses to locate and use qualified small and minority-owned businesses as defined in Section 65-5-212.
- (5) searching for and developing opportunities to use small and minority-owned businesses and encouraging such businesses to participate in and bid on contracts and subcontracts.
- (6) providing records and reports and cooperate in any authorized surveys as required by the Tennessee Regulatory Authority.
- (7) establishing a record-keeping system to track qualified small and minority-owned businesses and efforts to use such businesses.
- (8) Providing information and educational activities to persons within Premiere and training such persons to seek out, encourage, and promote the use of small and minority-owned businesses.

In performance of these duties, the Administrator will utilize a number of resources, including:

Chambers of Commerce  
The Tennessee Department of Commerce  
    Small Business Administration  
    Office of Minority Business  
The National Minority Supplier Development Counsel  
The National Association of Women Business Owners  
The National Association of Minority Contractors  
Historically Black Colleges, Universities, and Minority Institutions

The efforts to promote and ensure equal opportunities for small and minority-owned business are primarily spelled out in the Administrator's duties above. Additional efforts to provide opportunities to small and minority-owned business will include offering, where appropriate and feasible, small and minority-owned business assistance with technical, insurance, bonding, licensing, production, and deadline requirements.

#### IV. RECORDS AND COMPLIANCE REPORTS

Premiere will maintain records of qualified small and minority-owned business and efforts to use the goods and services of such businesses. In addition, Premiere will maintain records of educational and training activities conducted or attended and of the internal procurement procedures adopted to support this Plan.

Premiere will submit records and reports required by the Tennessee Regulatory Authority concerning the Plan. Moreover, Premiere will cooperate fully with any surveys and studies required by the Tennessee Regulatory Authority.

PREMIERE NETWORK SERVICES, INC.

By: Leo A. Wrobel  
Leo A. Wrobel

Dated: 9-7-00